Bio-chemical hazards of testing laboratories

2999. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is in a bid to regulate and contain the bio-chemical hazards of testing laboratories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan prepared in this regard;

(d) whether Government have prepared any check list so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

The MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) :(a) to (e) No, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has evolved a set of Guidelines for evaluation and recognition of environmental laboratories and for facilitating operations of the environmental laboratories, the Guidelines provide specification for the infrastructure, instruments and equipments, which are required for analysis of samples, the safe laboratory practices including arrangements for exhaust outlets, the facilities for management of toxic or highly inflammable material or gases and the provisions for disposal of liquid effluents generated from laboratories containing toxic pollutants like mercury etc. The requirements for waste segregation and its proper storage are also brought out in the Guidelines.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken a World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project for Food and Drugs Laboratories for preparation and implementation of an Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Plan for such laboratories. The activities envisaged in the EHS Management Plan include standard operating procedures for handling toxic chemicals, precautions for the handling of laboratory chemicals, evaluation, avoiding under estimation of risks and prevention of exposure to air borne substances. The project is also envisaged to enhance capacity for handling and management of hazardous chemicals and waste generated in such drug and food testing laboratories.